

1. A tool for opening pull-tab closed containers characterized by a sealed container top having a failure line about the periphery of said top and having a tab permanently secured to said top adjacent a peripheral edge thereof, which tool comprises:

5 a. a shaft with one end terminating in a torque transmitting means and, at its opposite end, having a working end;

b. said working end having a slot open to the end of said shaft and extending longitudinally along said shaft, dividing said working end of said tool into two longitudinal segments;

10 c. one of said longitudinal segments extending beyond the terminus of the other segment; and terminating in a blade with a blade tip having thickness less than the thickness of said one longitudinal segment.

2. The tool of claim 1 wherein said torque transmitting means comprises a handle which fixedly receives said shaft

3. The tool of claim 2 wherein said shaft is round.

4. The tool of claim 2 wherein said slot has a length from 0.75 to about 1.0 inch and equal to or slightly greater than the width of said tab.

5. The tool of claim 3 wherein said slot has a width from 0.08 to about 0.13 inch and slightly greater than the thickness of said tab, whereby said tab can be loosely received in said slot.

6. The tool of claim 1 wherein said blade tip is flatted.

7. The tool of claim 1 wherein said one end of said shaft is rotatably received in said handle and including an electric motor received within said handle and a gear box with an input shaft in driven connection to said motor and an output shaft fixedly secured to said one end of said shaft.

8. The tool of claim 6 including a rechargeable battery in electrical connection to said electrical motor.

9. The tool of claim 1 wherein said torque transmitting means comprises a plurality of longitudinal flats about said one end.

10. The tool of claim 1 wherein said one end has a hexagonal cross section.

11. The method of opening a pull-tab closed container characterized by a sealed container top having a peripheral failure line and a tab permanently secured to said top adjacent a peripheral edge thereof, which comprises:

- 5      a. grasping the handle of a tool having a distally extending shaft having a working end with an open, longitudinal slot with distal longitudinal segments; and
- b. sliding the working end of said tool over said tab, to receive said tab into said slot;
- c. rotating said tool about its longitudinal axis to sever said top from said can; and
- d. retracting said tool from said top by withdrawing said tool in a longitudinal direction substantially along its longitudinal axis

12. The method of claim 8 wherein said tab has a loop portion closely adjacent to the top surface of said container top, including the step of inserting the tip of said shaft beneath said loop portion and prying said loop portion to erect said loop portion above said container top, preparatory to step b.